42.	Miss R. Kavita Rao, Fellow, National Institute of Public Finance Policy, 18/2, Satasang Vihar Marg, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi-110067.	Member
43.	Shri Devi Dayal, IAS (Retd.) B-192A, Sector-44, Noida (U.P.).	Member
44.	Shri Rajesh Srivastava 293, Sector-15A, Noida (U.P).	Member
45.	President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions.	Member
46.	President, Indian National Trade Union Congress.	Member
47.	Additional Secretary and Development, Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Small Scale Industries.	Member, Secretary, Ex-officio

[F.No. 1 (3) 2006 MSME POL]

JAWHAR SIRCAR, Addl. Secy.

Demands of Railway Labour Co-operatives

104. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Railway labour Co-operatives for considering their long standing demands;

(b) if so, what are the main demands been made by the Railway Co-operatives and Government's response thereto; and

(c) how many labour co-operatives are in existence in the country and what kind of assistance his Ministry is providing since last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Main demand of the Railway Labour Co-operatives is that a fresh notification incorporating the reservation of skilled works up to Rs. 15 lakhs and un-skilled works without any limit related to Railways should be done as per the recommendation of National Advisory Council on Labour Co-operatives.

The said recommendations had been examined and it was not found feasible for acceptance.

(c) A total number of 34744 labour contract/construction and forest co-operative societies are registered in different states/union territories as on 31st March, 2006, out of which 163 labour Co-operatives are working with Railways in different zones.

Some of the assistance/concessions available to Railway Labour Co-operatives are:

1) Award of handling contracts both parcel and goods to the genuine Labour Cooperatives without any ceiling limit without call of tenders.

2) Provision of accommodation for office, canteen at a nominal rent of Rs. 20/- per annum.

3) 90% of payment of bills to be made within a week's time, after submission of the bills and the balance being made within one month of the receipt of the bills.

4) No earnest money is obtainable if the contract is awarded through negotiations.

5) In case of tenders, earnest money is chargeable at 10% subject to a minimum of Rs. 500/- and a maximum of Rs. 1000/-.

6) Deduction of security deposit through bills at the rate of 5% from each bill.

Withdrawal of Assameese language from tickets

105. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North Frontier Railways has withdrawn Assameese language from the tickets being issued to rail passengers;

(b) whether is it also a fact that this has hurt the sentiments of the local populace and situation may go out of control any time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by the rail passengers at stations; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to counter the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

†106. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail tracks of Rajasthan covered in the rail budget for the year 2006-07 for carrying out survey work with regard to gauge conversion:

(b) the schedule fixed to complete the survey work with regard to said gauge conversion alongwith the present status of the progress thereof; and

(c) by when the gauge conversion of Chittor-Alwar track is targeted to be completed alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No new survey for gauge conversion was included in the Budget 2006-07.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Alwar to Ajmer *via* Bandikui-Jaipur-Phulera is already on broad gauge. Further the gauge conversion from Ajmer to Chittaurgarh has already been completed and commissioned.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.